



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

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## NORTH DAKOTA CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

FARGO, ND April 22, 2013 – For the week ending April 21, 2013, cooler than normal temperatures have slowed the pace of snowmelt, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. The cooler temperatures and wet soils have delayed even further the start of fieldwork, with reports indicating that, on average, producers intend to begin fieldwork by May 5. Livestock producers are concerned with the shortage of hay supplies since pastures are not yet available for grazing. Also, the poor conditions are causing continued stress to those producers who are calving and lambing. Some calf and lamb losses were experienced due to the blizzard conditions that occurred on April 14. Temperatures across North Dakota last week were at least 9 degrees below normal, with the exception being the southwest part of the state where temperatures were 6 to 9 degrees below normal.

With the continued snow cover, averaging 5.9 inches across the state, there was only 0.1 day suitable for fieldwork. Although moisture supplies continue to improve, the 2013 planting progress remains well behind last year's early progress and also behind the 5 year average. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 2 percent very short, 9 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 15 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 5 percent very short, 35 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus.

**Weather Report:** Precipitation and temperature data are now being provided through the High Plains Regional Climate Center. See link below for the latest updates. A link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor graphic is also provided.

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Calving was 75 percent complete, while lambing was 82 percent complete and shearing 91 percent complete. Cattle and calf conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Cattle and calves death loss reported at 6 percent below average, 82 percent average, and 12 percent above average. Sheep and lamb conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Sheep and lambs death loss reported at 3 percent below average, 89 percent average, and 8 percent above average. Hay and forage supplies rated 6 percent very short, 27 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were 4 percent very short, 14 percent short, 80 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

*Data for this news release were provided at the county level by USDA Farm Service Agency and NDSU Extension Service.*

*Access the National publication for Crop Progress and Condition tables at:*

<http://usda01.library.cornell.edu/usda/nass/CropProg//2010s/2013/CropProg-04-22-2013.pdf>

*Access the High Plains Region Climate Center for Temperature and Precipitation Maps at:*

[http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current/index.php?action=update\\_region&state=ND&region=HPRCC](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current/index.php?action=update_region&state=ND&region=HPRCC)

*Access the U.S. Drought Monitor at:*

[http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DM\\_state.htm?ND,HP](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DM_state.htm?ND,HP)